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Frances Doyle

Attorney Docket No.: GRAT 19.083 (100717-10038)

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAY 24 2004

Inventor : Gunter Knoll et al.
Serial No. : 09/980,554
Filed : March 8, 2002
Title : Method and Device for ...
Examiner : John Windmuller
Group Art Unit : 3724
Confirmation No. : 5788

OFFICIAL

May 24, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a three-month extension, a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

In response to the Office Action dated November 24, 2003, please amend the subject application as follows:

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respectfully directed to the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Applicant's specification for a discussion of the benefits obtained by splitting the bearing eye in the manner set forth in the amended claims.

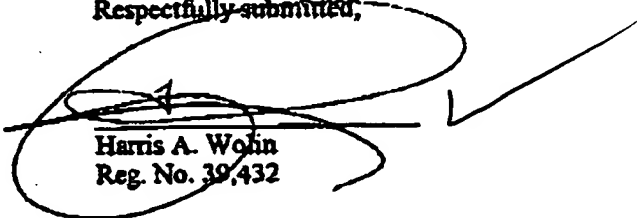
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would not consider the claimed invention (as amended) to be obvious in view of the combined teachings of Hekman and Cavallo. As Hekman clearly fails to teach the different positioning of a bearing eye and as Cavallo fails to teach a wedge-driven splitting method that, when experiencing the slightest asymmetrical load or stress, leads to undesired yielding and deformation of the material of the connecting rod, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Cavallo and Hekman would not result in the Applicant's method and device for breaking or splitting a machine component *as presently claimed*.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-11, consisting of independent claims 1 and 4 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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